

**Written Testimony of Erika Correa on behalf of The Learning Disabilities Association of Connecticut.**

**Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010**

**Testimony in Support of: HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products and HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut;**

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable members of the Environment Committee,

I am writing in support of the HB 5130 and HB 5126. I am a registered nurse, a parent, and volunteer with the Learning Disabilities Association of Connecticut.

I am very concerned with the health of our community. We are all exposed to a wide range of chemicals regularly. Many of these chemicals have been shown to be harmful. Even small exposures to some chemicals can cause learning and developmental problems in children and developing fetuses. Developmental and learning disabilities are a heavy burden on our community and educational system.

I am proud to know that Connecticut has been a national leader in reducing environmental exposure to mercury, lead and BPA. HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products will allow us to take a comprehensive approach to reducing children's exposure to high risk chemicals. I have met many parents who worry about what their children are exposure to, but find it difficult keep track of what chemicals to avoid and how to avoid them. This bill will take that responsibility off of individual parents and allow all of us to enjoy safer homes, workplaces and environments.

The second bill, HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut, in an essential step in making our community safer while supporting Connecticut businesses. This organization will make it easier for businesses to find cost alternatives to current formulas with minimizing their own research costs. Connecticut businesses can to safer places to work, provide safer products. As world markets often require different standards, access to this resource can help Connecticut businesses compete more effectively overseas. A Chemical Innovations Institute could be a center of excellence to attract manufactures to the state as well as an opportunity of green jobs.

I hope the Environment Committee with make passing both HB 5126 and HB 5130 a priority. I thank you for your continued leadership in this area.

Sincerely,

Erika Correa  
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